

From: [Paul](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Budget Deliberations
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 5:12:24 PM

Senators,

As you deliberate the budget I would like you to keep a few things in mind:

We are all in this together.

The solutions to the budget deficit will be a combinations of revenue, cuts and use of the permanent fund.

We all have to contribute to the solution. That means we have to move toward individually contributing to the cost of government. A statewide sales tax will be necessary as well as a statewide income tax. All this temporary visitors and north slope employees who enjoy our infrastructure need to contribute to its well being. When I came into the state in '69 we had a sales tax, school tax and income tax. We need to go to that today. By doing so we will wean ourselves of the welfare state mentality we currently experience.

All non renewable resources need to pay their fair share.

Reduce the oil credits, the oil companies have had a free ride for too long.

Support education, including the University of Alaska. We need smart, talented, young people to lead the way in research, industry and commerce.

Be real careful with cuts. Don't hurt the elderly or the poor, for example. Get ride of that legislative office in Anchorage you spent so much money on.

Don't worry about re-election. If you do a good job for **everyone** that is what counts.

Thank you

Paul Costello
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